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Work and Workers.

News has been received of the death of Professor C. P. Thiele, D.D., of the University of Leiden, Holland. He was born at Leiden in 1830, and was appointed to the professorship of the history of religions in 1877. For many years he has been one of the foremost scholars in Europe in the new field of historical research known as comparative religion, and to him as much as to any other is due the rapid advance in this important branch of religious study. His greatest works have been translated into English, under the titles *History of the Egyptian Religion* (1882), and *Outlines of the History of Religion to the Spread of the Universal Religions* (1878, 4th ed., 1888). Since 1867, when the *Theologisch Tijdschrift* was founded, Professor Thiele had been one of the editors, and had contributed extensively to this famous Dutch periodical.

DRS. GRENFELL AND HUNT, the indefatigable excavators of Greek papyri, are again in Egypt conducting excavations in the Fayûm. In a letter dated Sela, February 10, and just received at Chicago, Mr. Grenfell writes: "We have been digging for just three weeks now, principally in the Roman cemetery of a place called Manaslim shâreh (Tanis), about six miles south of Rubayyat. We have obtained some good portraits and glass, besides numerous small articles; but for papyri we have been dependent on about half a dozen papyrus cartonnage mummies of the early Ptolemaic period. The bulk of the Ptolemaic cemetery was dug by us last year. We are now just moving to Talit in the south of the Fayûm to look for its Ptolemaic tombs, and anticipate winding up with a short dig at Mahûn, where Petrie found a cemetery of crocodiles, but left it undug. It is just possible that some of them may have papyrus inside of them like the Tebtemis ones. We hope to get back to England early in April." Mr. Grenfell further reports that the Frenchman Jouguet is excavating for papyri at Medinet Madi; and a German, Rubensohn, at Harit.

ONE feature of the present widespread and earnest movement for better Bible study is the fact that many large churches, acting individually, have attempted to work out their own salvation in this respect by the preparation and printing for their own use of Sunday-school

lessons on the new lines, thus bringing about the comprehensive historical study of the Scriptures. The BIBLICAL WORLD receives from time to time sample copies of these local publications, which have varying characteristics and different degrees of excellence. The series of "Bible Studies" prepared for the Bible school of the First Congregational Church, Elyria, O., by Mrs. F. N. Smith and Mrs. W. E. Cadmus, has many good qualities, and carries out the idea of connected historical Bible study. The method adopted is to go through the entire Bible every three years, and in nine years the cycle will be complete, since each of the three times through, the Scripture material will be studied from a different point of view. Two of the series are already issued: one on the "Life and Times of Christ and the Apostles," the other on the "History of Israel."

ACCORDING to the plan for removal previously announced, the Bible Normal College of Springfield, Mass., has now secured property in the immediate neighborhood of Hartford Theological Seminary, upon which already stand buildings that will be used for the housing of the institution. The relation of the Bible Normal College to Hartford Seminary is to be one of affiliation, not of union. Each institution will retain its separate existence, but each will grant to the other such courtesies and privileges in the matter of instruction as shall appear to be for the mutual benefit of both. With this change of location the Bible Normal College establishes at the same time a fixed standard for its curriculum. A regular three-year course is provided, the admission to which shall be on condition of graduation from a college, or the equivalent of such graduation. But the school also offers a special course of one year for lay workers in the churches who can give but a brief time to preparation. In this one-year course instruction is given in the English Bible, in psychology, in pedagogy, in sociology, and in other practical subjects which will be useful to such workers. Rev. David Allen Reed continues to be the president of the college, and gives instruction in Bible doctrines. Professor F. J. Coffin, Ph.D., has charge of the work in Old Testament and missions; Professor S. B. Hazlett, Ph.D., in psychology and the science of education; Professor Frank Russell, D.D., in sociology; Professor E. H. Knight, A.M., in New Testament; Professor George W. Pease, in Bible-school pedagogy. We wish for the institution in its new location and environment an increase of students and of influence. Certainly the work here undertaken is one of the most important for the immediate uplift of the religious life and thought of our time.